



# Habitat Happenings

*A newsletter of Habitat for Humanity  
of Greater Fredericksburg*

Summer 2013

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## Mission Statement

Habitat for  
Humanity,  
in partnership  
with God  
and with the  
support of a  
caring community,  
works to provide  
decent, affordable  
housing for  
people in need.

## *Habitat Homes a Hand Up, Not a Handout*

Habitat for Humanity has built 14 homes over the past 18 years right here in Fredericksburg. But make no mistake, these homes are not a handout, but rather a hand up for families in need of decent, safe, affordable housing.

These future homeowners must meet strict criteria to become eligible for a Habitat home and must put in 300 hours of "sweat equity"- actual labor on their new home, whether painting the walls or installing insulation.

Just like any other homeowner, they must

make a monthly mortgage payment, which includes insurance and taxes. Full equity is not realized until the mortgage is paid off in twenty years.

There are also deed restrictions that discourage later resale for profit. In fact, each of the 14 Habitat homes built thus far in Fredericksburg have the original homeowners still living in them!

Habitat homes don't "bring down" property values, they are well built, clean, and attractively landscaped. Habitat homeowners take pride in their houses, having worked

hard to achieve their dream of a safe place to raise their children.

Habitat homes are not for the dependant, they are for people that are employed, have a family, and are currently renting, but sadly in substandard conditions. They also have hopes and dreams for their children, but would like a better place to raise and educate them, to give them a head start on life.

With the help of our community and its citizens, Habitat for Humanity provides that head start with a hand up. And it all starts with a Habitat home.

## *A Short History of Habitat*

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fredericksburg was formed in 1995 with the help of Stephen Kinney of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, John Benson, then president of Bank One, and attorney David Herbig.

A grant from the Peterson

Foundation was used to purchase two lots for a cost of \$5,400. The first home was finished in Dec. 1996 for \$25,000.

A second home was completed a year later. Additional lots were also purchased for homes #3, #4, and #5 in 1997 with grant money.

Over the past ten years grants, loans, donations, and fundraisers allowed for the purchase of lots and the construction of homes #6-14.

Construction of Home #15, which has a paid lot available for it, is projected to cost \$90,000. Fundraising begins this summer.

Habitat homes are three bedroom, one and a half bath with a little over 1100 sq. ft. of living space with central heat and air. A small storage shed is added, but no garage or carport. Whirlpool Corp. donates a refrigerator and stove for each home.

Habitat for Humanity of Fredericksburg serves the low and very low income families of Gillespie County who are in need of decent, safe, and affordable housing.

*A BIG Thank You goes out to our local churches which provide the meals for Habitat construction volunteers and the Care-A-Vanners. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated!!!*

## ***Habitat Fundraiser Slated for this Summer***

So what does it take to build a Habitat home? Well besides volunteer labor-money! Construction cost for Habitat Home #15 has been figured at \$90,000. Though this may seem like a small amount compared to new home prices currently on the market in Fredericksburg, it is a large amount when it comes to fundraising.

Just like neighbors once helped in a barn raising, it takes a community and the support of its citizens to build a Habitat home.

Each donation made, large or small, helps toward the total amount. To determine how you can best donate within your budget, Habitat is launching their Home #15 Fundraiser this summer.

Donations levels will be explained in a brochure and letter, showing how you can help by funding the purchase of a door or a window, a sink or toilet, electrical or plumbing, flooring or roofing. Levels range from \$25 (paint) to \$5000 (plumbing).

You may donate as an individual or as a business, a church, or an organization, a corporation or a foundation. All donations go toward construction costs and are tax-deductible. Habitat for Humanity homes are sold to homeowners at no profit and with no interest on the mortgage.

Habitat is privately funded and receives no government funding for building of homes, land, site prep, infrastructure, or administrative expenses.

## ***Donating through Estate Planning***

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fredericksburg also offers another way to donate, through estate planning. Habitat benefits from gifts made by caring people who wish to support Habitat through their estates after their passing.

Habitat is now able to offer professional guidance to those looking to leave property or funds to Habitat at their death.

If you, or a loved one, is interested in learning more about giving by means of wills or trusts, or need help in making such arrangements, please contact one of our board members who can refer you to participating lawyer in our development program.

**Contact June Phillips at 997-2748 or [junephillips966@gmail.com](mailto:junephillips966@gmail.com)**

**Cynthia Berkman at 992- 3081 or [gigiberkman@gmail.com](mailto:gigiberkman@gmail.com)**



## ***A Quilt Makes a House a Home***

Nothing says home like a mother's hug and a handmade quilt. And each Habitat home that is built comes with both! Through the generosity of the Vereins Quilt Guild of Fredericksburg, a handmade quilt is presented to each new Habitat home owner as a house warming gift. Kids can wrap themselves in the warmth of a hug and a quilt in their new Habitat home! Thank you to all the ladies at the Vereins Quilt Guild!

## Care-A-Vanners Lend a Hand to Boys & Girls Club

Absent the funding to build a Habitat home this past spring, energies were directed at helping another local organization, the Boys & Girls Club of Fredericksburg. And the help came in the form of the Care-A-Vanners.

The Care-A-Vanners, are a group of volunteers who tour the U.S. in their R.V.'s, stopping to work on Habitat projects in different states. The Care-A-Vanners have been from Texas to Michigan and west to Wyoming and Montana, traveling in the winter and fall. Many return to Fredericksburg each year, coming from home states Arizona, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and as far away as Canada.

This spring the project centered on much needed repairs and long awaited improvements to the Club's facility on

Park Street. Improvements to the club included installing windows, rebuilding two walls in the art room, building a set of stairs and a counter and foot rest in the Teen Deck area, staining the deck, and building and staining two picnic tables.

The Care-A-Vanners also rewired a workroom for kitchen appliances, and transformed an old storage room into a multi-purpose room for music, games, and movies.

The group also painted, installed tile, repaired sheetrock, sewed cushion covers, and replaced faucets. Old fluorescent lighting was also removed and replaced with track lighting and ceiling fans.

Accustomed to getting the most bang from the buck, the Care

-A-Vanners managed this all with project materials totaling just over \$3,000. Man (and woman) hours exceeded 1500 and one can't put a price on those helping hands!

The Care-A-Vanners also donated their own funds to cover the cost of new kitchen cabinets, countertops, and sinks for the Club, bringing a whole new look to the kitchen renovation.

The Boys & Girls Club staff and board members were overwhelmed with the Habitat Care-A-Vanners generosity of time, talent, and treasure to help the children of Fredericksburg. As a show of appreciation, the Club installed a plaque honoring the volunteer efforts of the Care-A-Vanners.

Next spring, the Care-A-Vanners hope to help with Habitat's newest project, House #15. Knowing how much love and labor the group put into the Boys & Girls Club, it is obvious the Care-A-Vanners care about helping the youth of Fredericksburg.

With a new home for a prospective future family awaiting their skills and hard work, Habitat is looking forward to working with the Care-A-Vanners and local volunteers again.

*Volunteer builders are a huge part of Habitat. Fredericksburg is blessed with our own local talent of "weekend workshop warriors".*

*Members of the local group include residents Wayne Murphy, Pete Jensen, Don Smith, Don Ingels, and Al Bispo.*

*Additional volunteers are always needed when constructing Habitat homes, so whether an amateur, hobbyist, professional, retired, or semi-retired, male or female, old or young, please give us a call!*

*Monetary contributions as well as donation and discount of building materials are also greatly appreciated. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to our home building program.*

RV CARE-A-VANNERS  
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS  
FEBRUARY, 2012



Sitting: Betty Huygen, Darrell DeVault, Shirley Harvey, Idamae Downs, Karen & Bob Alderden, Linda Aide, Marilyn Adams Standing: Dick Aide, Paul Holmes, John Huygen, Ellen DeVault, Richard Harvey, Don Smith, Bill Downs, Rodger & Susan Sandlin, Craig Sundermeyer, Pete Jensen, Wayne Murphy, CE Cherry, Dwight Abams Absent when picture taken: Colleen Michalski, Larry & Linda Romig

**Since 2000, over 85 different Care-A-Vanners have helped build 10 Habitat homes in Fredericksburg and, worked over 17,000 volunteer hours.**

Habitat for Humanity  
 102 E. San Antonio St  
 Suite B Box 5  
 Fredericksburg TX 78624

### Habitat Home #15- How You Can Help

*Maybe it's just a gallon of paint, or perhaps a window or door, or even plumbing or the floor. To get an idea of how you can help in our Habitat Home #15 Fundraiser this summer, here is a material cost breakdown. Watch your mail for more details!*

Roof decking plywood- \$20 per sheet

Paint- \$25-30 gallon

Ceiling Lights- \$40 per light

Doors- \$80- \$100

Bath Faucets- \$100

Kitchen Sink- \$125

Structural Plywood- \$120 per wall

Kitchen Faucets- \$125

Toilet- \$125

Fans with Light Kit- \$125

Windows-\$190

Water heater- \$350

Bathtub- \$400

Bath Vanity- \$500

Flooring- \$400 per room

Siding Boards- \$450 per side

Sheetrock- Whole Room- \$500

Exterior Trim- \$600

Interior Trim- \$600

Roof- \$800

Insulation- \$1200-\$1400

Framing- \$3000 per wall

Cabinets- \$2000

Electrical- \$4000

Heating and Cooling System- \$5000

Plumbing- \$5500- \$6000

Slab- \$14,550

Address:

102 E. San Antonio St.  
 Suite B Box 5  
 Fredericksburg TX  
 78624

On The Web:

fbghabitat.org (local)  
 habitattexas.org (state)  
 habitat.org (international)

Phone

(830) 990- 8585

